



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by  
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



March 3, 2016

TO: Chief Ken Adcox

FROM: Assistant Chief R. K. Parker

SUBJECT: 2015 Annual Report on Use of Force in the La Porte Police Department

Following is the 2015 Annual Report regarding use of force within the City of La Porte Police Department. It is a basic analysis of use of force as deployed by LPPD personnel occurring from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

The report is required by the Texas Police Chiefs Association Recognition Foundation as an element of their Best Practices Recognition Program. The report analyzes data involving use of force such as:

1. The initial nature of the call prior to force deployed;
2. The reason for the deployment of force;
3. The type of force deployed;
4. The shift on which the use of force occurred;
5. The time frame in which the use of force occurred;
6. The suspect gender on which use of force was deployed;
7. The suspect race on which use of force was deployed;
8. The suspect age on which use of force was deployed;
9. The officer's gender who deployed use of force;
10. The officer's race who deployed use of force;
11. Race of officer on suspect (cross-analysis) on which use of force was used;
12. Years of experience of officer deploying use of force;
13. Was the force deployed effective or not;
14. Location type where use of force was deployed;
15. Was an officer injured;
16. Was a suspect injured;
17. Were additional officers (backup) on scene when use of force was deployed;
18. Officers by name deploying use of force;

Data was collected from the LPPD's IA Pro internal affairs database and various reports as documented by officers and reviewed by supervisors and Internal Affairs.

It was found that there were a total of eighteen deployments of uses of force of various types for the established time frame. Nine incidents of use of force were documented in 2014. Eleven documented deployments of use of force occurred in 2013, while in 2012 there were eleven, and



# City of La Porte

Established 1892

# Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by  
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



in 2011, there were eleven. In 2010, there were twenty four uses of force, in 2009 there were twenty eight uses of force, and in 2008 there were twenty nine uses of force. Although there is a substantial increase from 2014 as compared to 2015 (100%), it was noted during analysis of report narratives that sufficient justification for use of force existed in each situation. The charts below provide additional information related to the data:

1. Justification for the deployment of force:
  - a. Assault on police officer/displaying aggressive force toward officer: 2
  - b. Resisting arrest/search: 13
2. Type of force deployed:
  - a. Electronic control device: 13
  - b. Hands: 4
  - c. Leg/feet: 1

The deployment of the TASER, our current electronic control device, was effective in all deployments except one. In 2014 we observed 100 percent effectiveness. We experienced 88 percent effectiveness in 2013, and 50 percent effectiveness in 2012. Our refresher training on deployment of electronic control devices appears to have increased our successful deployments since 2009, when in that year we suffered almost fifty percent failure in TASER deployments.

There have been no accidental discharges with firearms documented since 2011, when we observed two documented. This helps to illustrate the value of continued and enhanced basic firearms handling training and refresher courses as offered by our range master. There were also no documented uses of police firearms in force situations for 2014.

In 2015, officers utilized empty hands techniques or leg thrusts/sweeps to take down suspects who actively assaulted officers in five events. These techniques were effective in all of these encounters. Comparatively, officers employed empty hands techniques as use of force on four occasions in 2014 and were successful in all of those events. In each of those events where *empty hands* were utilized there were injuries to officers on two occasions and a suspect suffered injuries in two incidents.

In all of the use of force encounters during 2015, there were only three injuries observed. One involved a minor head injury to a suspect, requiring medical treatment in an encounter on 010915. The other two injuries involved the same officer, in the 120815 and 122215 incidents. In both situations, the officer suffered a minor hand injury that was reported but no substantial medical treatment was required.



# City of La Porte

Established 1892

# Police Department

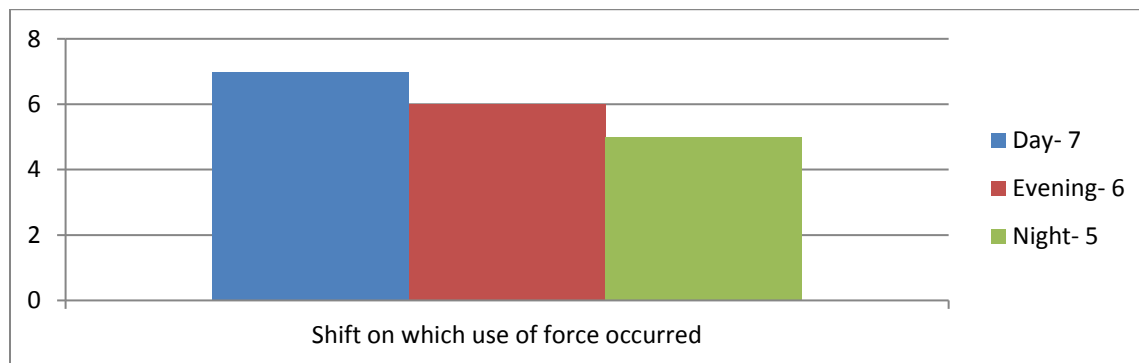
Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by  
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



In the past, we have noted that when empty hands techniques were utilized, the chance for injury to suspects and/or officers was enhanced substantially. However, in the above situations in 2015, the suspect was the only one injured in a hand to hand encounter. In both cases where the officer was injured, electronic control devices were deployed but injury occurred as personnel attempted to complete handcuffing of resistant suspects.

### 3. Shift on which use of force was used:

- a. Day 7
- b. Evening 6
- c. Night 5



### 4. Suspect gender on which use of force occurred:

- a. Male: 15
- b. Female: 3

### 5. Suspect race on which use of force occurred:

- a. White: 11
- b. Hispanic: 3
- c. Black: 4

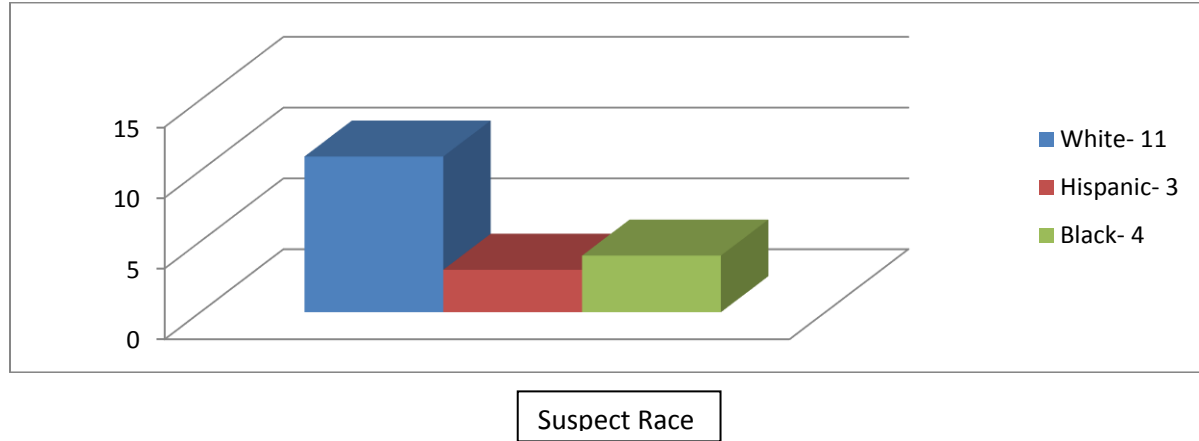


# City of La Porte

Established 1892

# Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by  
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



6. Suspect age bracket:

- a. 15-25: 3
- b. 26-30: 2
- c. 31-35: 2
- d. 36-40: 6
- e. Over 41: 5

7. Officer's gender deploying use of force:

- a. Male: 18
- b. Female: 0

8. Officer's race deploying use of force:

- a. White: 12
- b. Hispanic: 6
- c. Black: 0
- d. Other: 0

9. Race of officer on suspect (cross-analysis) on which use of force was used:

- a. White officer on white suspect: 7
- b. White officer on Hispanic suspect: 1
- c. White officer on black suspect: 4
- d. Hispanic officer on white suspect: 4
- e. Hispanic officer on Hispanic suspect: 2

10. Years of experience of officer deploying use of force:

- a. 0-2 years: 8
- b. 3-5 years: 1
- c. 6-10 years: 8



# City of La Porte

Established 1892

# Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by  
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



- d. 11-15 years: 1
- 11. Was the force used effective:
  - a. Yes: 17
  - b. No: 1
- 12. The location type where use of force occurred:
  - a. Residence: 10
  - b. Street/yard/open space: 15
  - c. Jail: 3
- 13. Were additional officers on the scene as backup, when force was deployed:
  - a. Yes: 12
  - b. No: 6
- 14. Officers deploying force by name and number of incidents during the time period:
  - a. Officer (Redacted): 3 deployments of force, all with ECD
  - b. Officer (Redacted): 3 deployments of force, two with ECD, one with empty hands technique
  - c. Officer (Redacted): 3 deployments of force, 2 with ECD, 1 with empty hands technique
  - d. PSA (Redacted): 2 deployments of force, both with empty hands technique
  - e. Officer (Redacted): 2 deployments of force, 1 with ECD, 1 with empty hands technique.
  - f. Officer (Redacted): 2 deployments of force, both with ECD
  - g. Officer (Redacted): 1 deployment of force, with ECD
  - h. Officer (Redacted): 1 deployment of force, with ECD
  - i. Officer (Redacted): 1 deployment of force, with ECD

Summary: All deployments involving use of force were found to be within policy and appropriately utilized and documented after review by supervisors and the Assistant Chief of Patrol Operations. Departmental policy authorizes several different methods of less lethal force, which may be utilized in times where it is required, as noted in General Order 2.000. These include expandable batons, empty/soft hands techniques, TASERS (electronic control devices), and firearms. It appears from the data that electronic control devices continue to be the less lethal weapon of choice when less lethal force is appropriate.

In 2016, the department will continue to require mandatory training and re-certifications on firearms and electronic control devices, as well as offering close quarter combat tactics to include empty hands techniques and other use of force subject matter.



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by  
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



This report is submitted to the Chief of Police for review, as required by the Texas Police Chief's Association Recognition Foundation and the general orders manual of the La Porte Police Department.

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. K. Parker,  
Assistant Chief, Support Services

Reviewed this date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Adcox,  
Chief of Police